

LOTOS DINNER TO MCKELWAY.

BROOKLYN EDITOR TOLD WHAT A GREAT MAN HE IS.

With a few gibes on the side for the Borough Hall from-in Reply He Praised the Club and Suggests Honoring Wealth for What It Does.

The Lotos Club has a custom every winter of honoring with a dinner some man distinguished in the arts, the professions or in science. The first of the club's complimentary dinners this season was held last night in honor of St. Clair McKelway, editor of the Brooklyn Eagle.

Among the men who sat at the guests' table with President Frank R. Lawrence and in turn said pleasant things about Editor McKelway were Judge Alton B. Parker, Oscar S. Straus, the new Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Dr. Henry Van Dyke, Nicholas M. Butler, president of Columbia; Seth Low, Timothy L. Woodruff, Gen. Horace Porter, Hart Lyman, editor in chief of the New York Tribune, and George H. Daniels.

They greeted Mr. McKelway as an old friend and companion, a good fellow personally, and as an editor fearless, independent and devoid of hypocrisy and hysteria. There were no set speeches. Every man when introduced by President Lawrence made a few remarks of general nature and then got around to Mr. McKelway to tell him what his good traits are. It was an occasion also for cracking a few jokes on poor old Brooklyn, and few of the speakers resisted the opportunity which the presence of the Brooklyn editor afforded them.

Perhaps 200 were at table. The room of the Lotos Club were hung with garlands of smilax and clematis, in which flamed the red blossoms of the poinsettia. The souvenir menu was symbolic of the occasion. On the cover was a scroll, a printing press and a quill. Inside was a portrait of Mr. McKelway, a picture of the Brooklyn Eagle Building and a scroll on which was the list of degrees which universities and colleges have given Mr. McKelway.

President Lawrence, starting the speech-making, said: "We meet to-night for the first time this season. Since we last met there have been momentous events in connection with the club. The destinies of the club are somewhat changed. A governing body, heeding the call of fifty-acre, has sold your house over your heads. (A voice: "Thank God!" and laughter.) We are to remain here another year, but we must realize that the old room with its pleasant associations are doomed.

"We must some day prepare to see a hideous commercial structure erected on this site. As for the new home, I hope it will be a protest against the growing bigness of things. I am one of those who are tired of marble columns and painted ceilings. (Applause.) I hope our new home will be modest, cozy, comfortable and more modern, but that it will retain the homelike features of the old abiding place. I don't believe this club should be run as a hotel. I hope not so much that it will grow larger, as that it will remain distinctive. (Applause.)

"We are here to-night to honor a congenial companion. I am not sure whether St. Clair McKelway was the author of the old saying: 'In the matter of life we are in Brooklyn.' (Laughter.) It is a rare honor to welcome him. For years he has been a great force in journalism, one of the few remaining great journalists. His influence is as rugged as his speech. I turn to the man from darkest Brooklyn (laughter), St. Clair McKelway. (Applause.)

Mr. McKelway had this to say to the Lotos Club:

I have spoken often enough at the Lotos Club, when others have been honored, to know what to expect from those who will follow me. They are the targeteers. I am the target. For what I am about to read, I trust them may the Lord make me truly pacydermatous. In what I shall say to them before they can draw a long bow or a short gun on me I shall be sincere as always, but brief, as rarely. Fewer editors than men of other callings have received dinners here. In my memory among editors I can only recall Murat Halstead, the late Charles A. Dana and Whitelaw Reid. Mr. Reid could have been received either as an author or a publisher or a diplomat. Mr. Halstead was received in the character of a distinguished journalist who has just adventured on Brooklyn. The representative position of the late Charles A. Dana in journalism, in authorship and in public service we all know.

I had the pleasure of speaking at the dinners to them, as well as at dinners to many others here, and in my capacity as targeteer I may be called experienced. Now it is my turn to be the target.

It is with tribute as it is with sensitiveness. Every man says he is not sensitive and is. Every man says he does not like to be praised by others, but does not like to be praised by others. He likes it, especially when he knows it to be true and deserved. His affection of dislike is the tribute he pays to good form and to good deeds. The abrupt and carefully advertised candor of Mark Twain in saying that he would be glad to go round in Adam costume fools no Missourian who has gone in to swim with him—and he and I went to school in the same Missouri county. The naked truth, if told about him—and it shall be told here—would be very different from what he affected to tell about himself in Washington the other day. An Adam photograph of him, if copied right, would never be copyrighted in any language except the profane.

The Lotos since its foundation has felt the pulse of the times surrounding it and has prescribed the right artistic regime and the sound ethical tonic of each occasion it has confronted. The present appeal to the club with moral and marked significance. Our nation has a spelling reformer, a political genius and the recipient of the Nobel prize for his work as a peace-maker, as its Chief Magistrate. It will not, however, have a reformer and a jurist as its Governor. We have had worthy and ordinary Presidents. I doubt for a long while to come we shall have merely an ordinary President. A high stamp generally impresses one in a short period. Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt have preserved the White House from mediocrity or chicanery for many a year to come, as well as for their own time. Governor Hughes should be an influence to hold the republic and our time to come to character, courage and capacity. The men who tread the heights of principle reach the summits of achievement.

Any department of human endeavor measurably affects every other. The period of political reform draws art to higher levels. It inspires literature to the study of great examples and to the aspiration of higher ideals. It should stir journalism to the commendation of the hopeful and the clean in politics and in life. No great result is solitary. Diffused idealism, both a passion and a force. Our republic and our time are peculiarly favorable to this. Only blatant or mediocre journalism magnifies merely material prosperity. The better journalism makes prosperity spell opportunity, and opportunity obligation. It prescribes to the journalist the praise of principles, and not merely the cheap praise of possession. We are asking to-day not what men have amassed, but how and where did they get it; not how much one holds for himself, but how much he will let go for the uplift of humanity.

The temporary—it may be the permanent—effect of recent disclosures puts, to be frank, much weight upon inquiry. There is no hostility toward wealth honestly got. There is respect for it, enhanced, if at least the unearned increment of it is used for mankind. But of itself, and for itself alone, wealth is not standing, and is little welcome as a helper, even of good causes. A man is what he is and what he does, not what he has. This is the club of clubs for this reason. Givers have been more honored than getters. It is this which makes the club not merely an authority for art, but

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for ethics and for humanity within the republic and beyond it. I stopped him. Gen. Horace Porter was the next speaker, and when he got up, after a word or two from Toastmaster Lawrence, somebody called for three cheers. They were given with spirit.

"I remained sometime abroad," said Gen. Porter, "feeding the public crib. Now I am back to relieve the public purse from the strain and to feed occasionally at the Lotos. (Applause and laughter.) I am glad to assist in welcoming Mr. McKelway. I have a great admiration for Brooklyn. (Laughter.) I am not sure whether the Pilgrims landed first on Plymouth Rock or on Plymouth Church. Since there is a Forefathers' dinner in Brooklyn on December 21, and a Forefathers' dinner in New York on December 22, I imagine they did land first in Brooklyn and that it took them twenty-four hours to cross the East River. (Laughter and applause.)

"I like to be in proximity to intellect. One day in France, returning from the maneuvers, I saw a little zouave with a little red cap stuck precariously on the side of his head. 'What makes that cap stick on?' I said. 'Proximity to intellect, M'sieu,' said the zouave. (Laughter.)

Mr. McKelway, said the speaker, should be proud of his right to use the editorial 'we,' because, said the General, 'there are only three persons that are entitled to the honor of we: the editor, the editor and the man with a tape worm.' (Laughter.)

Gen. Porter said that one day in London H. C. Munroe, an editor of the London Standard, called on him at his apartment on Petticoat Lane for a British publication, went to him utterly disgusted.

"They object to the story," said Munroe. "We are here to-night to honor a congenial companion. I am not sure whether St. Clair McKelway was the author of the old saying: 'In the matter of life we are in Brooklyn.' (Laughter.) It is a rare honor to welcome him. For years he has been a great force in journalism, one of the few remaining great journalists. His influence is as rugged as his speech. I turn to the man from darkest Brooklyn (laughter), St. Clair McKelway. (Applause.)

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COMMANDER PEARY HONORED.

PRESIDENT PRESENTS TO HIM THE HUBBARD MEDAL.

He Says Peary Did a Great Deed and in Doing It Had to Show All the Moral Qualities Required in War—Secretary Bona-

parte and Dr. F. A. Cook Also Spoke.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—In the presence of a distinguished assemblage of more than 200 scientists, explorers, statesmen and professional men and women at the New Willard Hotel to-night the President, upon behalf of the National Geographic Society, presented Commander Robert E. Peary with the Hubbard medal for having reached the North Pole.

The occasion was the second annual banquet of the society, at which the President, Secretary Bonaparte, Commander Peary and many others prominent in official and social life of the capital were present.

Willis L. Moore, Chief of the Weather Bureau, presided and after the cigars had been served he introduced the Italian Ambassador, Mayor de Planchies, who extended the congratulations of Italy to the distinguished American explorer who had reached a point further north than a son of sunny Italy.

Commander Peary was greeted with a storm of applause when he arose to respond to the greeting and in a brief speech he spoke of the friendly international rivalry to reach the North Pole and complimented the efforts of the Duke of Abruzzi. He narrated some of the results which had been achieved by his expedition, even though he had not been successful in attaining the goal of his ambitions. The statements that the last expedition had shown that the Pole could not be reached and that it would be of no value to reach it, he said, were alike erroneous.

Secretary Bonaparte spoke for the United States Navy, the last time, he said, that he would be able to speak for it in his present capacity. He urged its maintenance and rebuilding as a means of preserving peace.

Dr. Frederick A. Cook, who has explored in both the Arctic and Antarctic regions, spoke to the toast "The top of North America," narrating his experiences in climbing to the summit of Mount McKinley, Alaska. Dr. Cook's speech was cut short by the announcement of the arrival of President Roosevelt, who was greeted with loud applause as he appeared and took his seat beside the toastmaster, Mr. Moore.

The President, in presenting the medal to Commander Peary, spoke as follows:

I count myself fortunate in having been asked to present this evening at such a gathering and on behalf of such a society to pay a tribute of honor to an American who emphatically deserves well of the Commonwealth. (Applause.)

Applause followed the presentation of the medal to Commander Peary, who then spoke of the results which had been achieved by his expedition, even though he had not been successful in attaining the goal of his ambitions. The statements that the last expedition had shown that the Pole could not be reached and that it would be of no value to reach it, he said, were alike erroneous.

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